

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:
 - a tubular housing having a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof;
 - a sleeve slidably mounted within the housing, wherein the sleeve has a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof, the at least one sleeve flow port selectively alignable with the at least one housing flow port, wherein an entire length of the sleeve flow port substantially corresponds to an entire length of the housing flow port; and
 - a seal assembly disposed between the housing and the sleeve, the seal assembly comprising:
 - an adapter having an entire length substantially the same or greater than the entire length of the sleeve flow port; and
 - at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed proximate to a first end of the adapter.
- 2.-4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the adapter comprises at least one protrusion disposed around a side thereof.
6. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the adapter comprises at least one protrusion disposed around both an inner side and an outer side thereof.
7. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the adapter comprises a plurality of protrusions disposed around both an inner side and an outer side thereof.
8. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein:
 - the adapter is a center adapter, and
 - the seal assembly further comprises:

a first end adapter, wherein the first sealing element is disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation;

a second end adapter, wherein the center adapter is disposed between the two end adapters; and

at least one second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation.

9. (Original) The tool of claim 8, further comprising at least one protrusion disposed around the first end adapter.

10. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, further comprising at least one equalization port disposed through a wall of the sleeve, wherein the equalization port is substantially smaller than the sleeve flow port.

11. (Original) The tool of claim 10, further comprising a means for selectively retaining the sleeve among a closed, an open, and an equalization position.

12. (Original) The tool of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises an upper housing and a lower housing threadingly coupled together and one of the housings comprises a lip and the other housing comprises a tapered surface so that when the housings are coupled the lip mates with the tapered surface to form a seal.

13. (Currently Amended) A seal assembly for use in a wellbore tool, comprising:
a first end adapter;
a second end adapter;
a center adapter disposed between the two end adapters;
at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation, wherein the first sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation, wherein the second sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter,

wherein a length of one of the adapters is substantially greater than ~~the~~ a combined length of ~~the~~ a rest of the seal assembly.

14. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein a protrusion is disposed around the center adapter.

15. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 14, wherein the protrusion is a plurality of protrusions.

16. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the adapters are constructed from a relatively hard material and the sealing members are constructed from a relatively soft material.

17. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the adapters are constructed of a material selected from a group consisting of a thermoplastic polymer and metal.

18. (Original) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the sealing elements are constructed of a material selected from a group consisting of an elastomer and a thermoplastic polymer.

19.-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein:
the sealing element is made from an elastomer and the adapter is made from a thermoplastic or a metal.

25. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein:

the adapter is a center adapter,
the first sealing element is disposed in a first axial orientation, and
the seal assembly further comprises at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed proximate a second end of the center adapter which is opposite to the first end in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation.

26. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the seal assembly is annular.

27. (Previously Presented) A method of using the wellbore tool as recited in claim 1 in a pressurized wellbore, comprising:
providing the wellbore tool as recited in claim 1;
running the wellbore tool into a pressurized wellbore; and
sliding the sleeve over the seal assembly, wherein the adapter will limit fluid flow across the seal assembly so that the seal assembly is not substantially damaged during sliding of the sleeve.

28. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the sealing elements are made from an elastomer and the adapters are made from a thermoplastic or a metal.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the one of the adapters is the center adapter.

33. (Previously Presented) The seal assembly of claim 13, wherein the adapters and sealing elements are annular.

34. (Currently Amended) A method of using the seal assembly as recited in claim 13 in a pressurized wellbore, comprising:

disposing the seal assembly as recited in claim 13 ~~into a wellbore tool comprising a housing and a sleeve~~ between a housing and a sleeve of a wellbore tool;

running the wellbore tool into a pressurized wellbore; and

sliding the sleeve over the seal assembly, wherein one of the adapters will limit fluid flow across the seal assembly so that the seal assembly is not substantially damaged during sliding of the sleeve.

35. (Previously Presented) A tool, utilizing the seal assembly of claim 13, for use in a wellbore, the tool comprising:

a tubular housing having a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof;

a sleeve slidably mounted within the housing, wherein the sleeve has a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof, the at least one sleeve flow port selectively alignable with the at least one housing flow port; and

the seal assembly, as recited in claim 13, disposed between the housing and the sleeve.

36. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the first sealing element is in direct contact with the adapter.

37. (Previously Presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the sleeve flow ports are longitudinal slots.

38. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the entire length of the adapter is greater than the a combined length of the a rest of the seal assembly.

39. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 10, wherein the entire length of the adapter is substantially the same as the length of the sleeve flow port.

40. (Currently Amended) The tool of claim 1, wherein the entire length of the adapter ~~has a length that~~ is substantially the same or greater than each entire length of each port disposed through the wall of the sleeve.

41. (Previously Presented) A tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:
a tubular housing having a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof;

a sleeve slidably mounted within the housing, wherein the sleeve has a bore therethrough, at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof, the at least one sleeve flow port selectively alignable with the at least one housing flow port, and at least one equalization port disposed through a wall thereof, wherein the sleeve equalization port is substantially smaller than the sleeve flow port; and

a seal assembly disposed between the housing and the sleeve, the seal assembly comprising an adapter having a length that is substantially the same or greater than a length of the sleeve flow port.

42. (New) The seal assembly of claim 38, wherein the entire length of the adapter is substantially greater than the combined length of the rest of the seal assembly

43. (New) The seal assembly of claim 35, wherein the length of the one of the adapters is substantially the same or greater than a length of the sleeve flow port of the wellbore tool.

44. (New) A tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:
a tubular housing having a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof;

a sleeve slidably mounted within the housing, wherein the sleeve has a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof, the at least one

sleeve flow port selectively alignable with the at least one housing flow port, wherein a length of the sleeve flow port substantially corresponds to a length of the housing flow port; and

a seal assembly disposed between the housing and the sleeve, the seal assembly comprising:

an adapter having a length substantially the same or greater than the length of the sleeve flow port, wherein the length of the adapter is greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed proximate to a first end of the adapter.

45. (New) A seal assembly for use in a wellbore tool, comprising:

a first end adapter;

a second end adapter;

a center adapter disposed between the two end adapters;

at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation, wherein the first sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation, wherein the second sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter,

wherein:

a length of one of the adapters is greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly, and

a protrusion is disposed around the center adapter.

46. (New) The seal assembly of claim 45, wherein the protrusion is a plurality of protrusions.

47. (New) A seal assembly for use in a wellbore tool, comprising:

a first end adapter;

a second end adapter;

a center adapter disposed between the two end adapters;

at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation, wherein the first sealing element in direct contact with the center adapter; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation, wherein the second sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter,

wherein a length of the center adapter is greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly.

48. (New) A method of using a seal assembly in a pressurized wellbore, comprising:
providing a wellbore tool, comprising:

a housing;

a sleeve; and

a seal assembly disposed between the housing and the sleeve, the seal assembly, comprising

a first end adapter;

a second end adapter;

a center adapter disposed between the two end adapters;

at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation, wherein the first sealing element in direct contact with the center adapter; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation, wherein the second sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter,

wherein a length of one of the adapters is greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly;
running the wellbore tool into the pressurized wellbore; and
sliding the sleeve over the seal assembly, wherein one of the adapters will limit fluid flow across the seal assembly so that the seal assembly is not substantially damaged during sliding of the sleeve.

49. (New) A tool for use in a wellbore, comprising:

a tubular housing having a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof;

a sleeve slidably mounted within the housing, wherein the sleeve has a bore therethrough and at least one flow port disposed through a wall thereof, the at least one sleeve flow port selectively alignable with the at least one housing flow port; and

a seal assembly, comprising:

a first end adapter;

a second end adapter;

a center adapter disposed between the two end adapters;

at least one substantially chevron-shaped first sealing element disposed between the first end adapter and the center adapter in a first axial orientation, wherein the first sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter; and

at least one substantially chevron-shaped second sealing element disposed between the second end adapter and the center adapter in a second axial orientation which is opposite to the first axial orientation, wherein the second sealing element is in direct contact with the center adapter,

wherein a length of one of the adapters is greater than a combined length of a rest of the seal assembly.